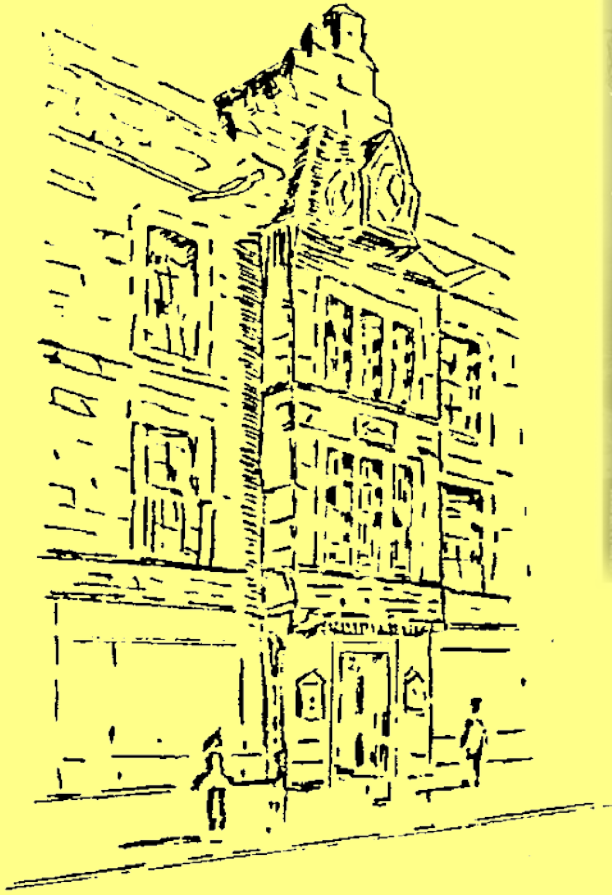


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PORTOBELLO BAPTIST CHURCH

Messenger

April 2011

April 2011

A PASTOR'S THOUGHT

As far as I am concerned the past six months or so have just flown past. I must admit that I have thoroughly enjoyed being back with you in Portobello and I want in this letter to record my thanks to you for your welcome, your encouragement and your support over the period.

Who would have thought that six months ago, you as a church would be at the threshold of possibly calling a new minister in such a short period of time, bearing in mind the difficulties that you had just come through.

Recent events within the church are a wee bit similar to what is happening all around us in our gardens at this time of the year. It is exciting to stand back and watch everything coming back to life again – to see the new green shoots appearing – to see fresh buds on the trees. And of course Spring is Resurrection time. After death and darkness comes new life and light. As far as Portobello Baptist Church is concerned, I believe that after the darkness of a spiritual winter, we have arrived at a time of Resurrection and Spring. Its a time to rejoice, to praise and thank our Lord and go forward in faith, in expectation, in hope, knowing that the One who has led his people thus far, over the past decades, will continue His work in our midst.

Our continuing prayer in these days is that our hearts and minds will be open to the leading and the prompting of the Holy Spirit. May He help us to lay aside whatever may be within our own agenda's as we seek His will for our future and for the future ministry within the church.

You never cease to amaze me, as far as your outgoing spirit and generosity is concerned. The recent box opening for the work of the Baptist Missionary Society was once again a token of your deep love for the Lord and your willingness to go the extra mile in your giving to his work.

Rev Robert Gemmell

PULPIT SUPPLY

April	3rd	11.00 a.m. 6.30 p.m.	Rev Andy Scarcliffe Rev Robert Gemmell
	10th	11.00 a.m. 6.30 p.m.	Rev Robert Gemmell do
	17th	11.00 a.m. 6.30 p.m.	Rev Robert Gemmell do
	24th	11.00 a.m. 6.30 p.m.	Rev Andy Scarcliffe do

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

	Tues	10.30 a.m.	Weekly Hour of Prayer <i>(all are welcome to stay for all or part of this time)</i>
	Wed	7.30 p.m.	Midweek Prayer & Bible Study
April	13th	7.30 p.m.	Special Church Meeting
	22nd	7.30 p.m.	Good Friday Communion Service
	24th	9.00 a.m.	Resurrection Sunday Breakfast

100th BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS



On Sunday 10th April 2011, Mrs Cathy Whittaker celebrates her 100th birthday. As a Church it is a pleasure to share this important day. How wonderful to have had the privilege of living through one hundred years. It is a remarkable milestone in life. May the day be filled with pleasure and joy, while celebrating such a long life, with family and friends.

In the year 1911, the Church was only 14 (1897) years old and not yet worshipping in the present building. Other notable events in that year were:

- Alexander Lees, war veteran who as a German prisoner of war took part in the event that was to inspire the film “The Great escape” was born
- The Composer Gian Carlo Menotti was born
- The Mitchell Library in Glasgow was built
- RAF Leuchars in Fife was opened
- Simon Fraser, the soldier that created the “Commandos” was born
- The Gaelic poet, Sorley MacLean, was born
- The longest serving Secretary of State for Scotland, William Ross, was born.

(information derived from scottish-places.info)

GOLDEN WEDDING CONGRATULATIONS



On 1st April 1961 Cyril & Jean Gee were married in the Church Sanctuary with their reception being held in the Milton House Hotel (now Kings Manor Hotel). Following the reception the happy couple departed for their honeymoon to Peebles Hydro.

On the weekend of their Golden Wedding celebrations, Cyril & Jean are retracing their steps and returning to Peebles Hydro

NO ATHEISTS IN AN EARTHQUAKE by Ray Comfort

Earthquakes have been on my mind recently, not just because of the recent killer quakes in New Zealand and Japan, but because I read a first-hand account from a friend who was in Christchurch when it struck. That frightening account convinced me that the many quakes I had been in were nothing but "tremors." I live in Southern California, and there is a very real chance that we will get a big one soon. So I have been considering the options, and have come to the conclusion that I won't be getting under a table. One picture convinced me that the safe place to be is beside something solid ... not under it. The picture was of one of the two-foot-high crushed cars caught under a collapsed San Francisco area freeway, after a massive quake. Beside the car was a two-foot high "safe zone." If the driver had known that he could get out and lie beside the car, the odds are he wouldn't have been crushed in it. Knowledge is everything, both for this life and for the life to come.



This picture of my son, Jacob, holding his son, was taken in Christchurch the day before the quake. Some of you may have read in *Out of the Comfort Zone* about "The Dome" (where we housed the Drug Prevention Center)—top right—overlooking where I preached (in front of the Cathedral). Both "The Dome" and the Cathedral were destroyed in the quake.

Recently I mentioned that I contacted a friend I hadn't seen for twenty years. He lived in my hometown of Christchurch, New Zealand, and had always mocked me for my faith, so I was surprised that he emailed back. He said that "god" greatly scared him last year (he used profanity) with a 7.1 earthquake. When I then shared the gospel with him, he wrote back and mockingly said he was going to Hell. The next day the killer quake hit, taking over 165 lives. When I contacted him again to see if he was okay, he replied, "Tell your God I am sorry and please don't do that again." This time he used a capital for "God."

SMILES

I told the Doctor I broke my leg in two places.
He told me to stop going to those places!

(Cathy Whittaker)

SMILES

A man and his wife were having an argument about who should brew the coffee each morning.

The wife said, 'you should do it', because you get up first, then we don't have to wait as long to get our coffee. The husband said, 'you are in charge of cooking around here and you should do it, because that is your job and I can just wait for my coffee'.

The wife replies, 'no, you should do it, and besides it is in the Bible that the man should do the coffee'.

The husband replies, 'I can't believe that, show me'. So she fetched the Bible, and opened the New Testament and showed him at the top of several pages, that it indeed says Hebrews!!

(Cathy Whittaker)

GREAT QUOTES with Kirk



"Love wins." —Rob Bell
"Farewell, Rob Bell." —John Piper

There has been quite a firestorm lately among pastors over the nature of God's love. Some would have us believe that a loving God would never send anyone to Hell. "That's not loving," they say. But the same people who say that don't have a problem with God sending Satan to the Lake of Fire, exterminating evil, or wiping out wickedness for the good of people. "That's very loving!" they might rightly reason. God certainly loves people (as demonstrated at the cross where Jesus died to save us). But He also loves justice, righteousness, and the glory of His great name. Is a judge not "loving" if he rightly puts a guilty serial killer under the sentence of the law? Is a good judge not "loving" if he correctly punishes a paedophile for his acts of violence and cruelty? So I don't buy the line that if God is love and love always wins, then nobody goes to the Hell that Jesus so clearly warned about. I believe love does win—every time. But not by removing its backbone and compromising the justice of the Almighty. My Saviour vanquishes evil, redeems the world, and defeats His enemies by giving rebels justice and making repentant sinners His friends.



~ Kirk Cameron

RESURRECTION

O GOD OF MY EXODUS,

Great was the joy of Isreal's sons,
when Egypt died upon the shore,

Far greater the joy

when the Redeemers foe lay crushed in the dust.

Jesus strides forth as the victor,

conqueror of death, hell, and all opposing might;

He bursts the bands of death,

tramples the power of darkness down,
and lives for ever.

He, my gracious surety,

apprehended for payment of my debt,

comes forth from the prison house of the grave

free, and triumphant over sin, Satan, and death.

Show me herein the proof

that His vicarious offering is accepted,

that the claims of justice are satisfied,

that the Devil's sceptre is shivered,

that His wrongful throne is levelled.

Give me the assurance that

in Christ I died, in Him I rose,

in His life I live, in His victory I triumph,

In His ascension I shall be glorified.

Adorable Redeemer,

thou who was lifted up upon a cross

art ascended to highest heaven.

Thou, who as Man of sorrows wast crowned with thorns,

art now as Lord of life wreathed with glory.

Once, no shame more deep than thine,

No agony more bitter, no death more cruel.

Now, no exaltation more high,

no life more glorious, no advocate more effective.

Thou art in the triumph car leading captive thine enemies behind thee.

What more could be done than thou hast done!

Thy death is my life,

thy resurrection my peace,

thy ascension my hope,

thy prayers my comfort.

(from "The Valley of Vision", a collection of Puritan Prayers & Devotions
By The Banner of Truth Trust)

THE ONLY METAL GOSPEL TRACT

LASTS FOR MONTHS IN SOMEONE'S BAG ...



"About ten months ago I was walking from work to my house when a woman stopped me and said, "You look like a nice person," and handed me a little paper wallet. Inside was a coin with the Ten Commandments on it, which are the same ones you sell on your online store. Little did I know that from that moment a seed had started to grow inside. I read it, and put it in my bag. For months it was in my bag ... in November I attended a local church and my faith has just grown and

grown. This all started from a little seed and a little coin I was handed." - Simon H (UK).

Pray that this story will be replicated throughout our area.

BAPTIST UNION OF SCOTLAND PRAYER LINK

April	3rd	Renfrew & Rosyth
	10th	Rothesay & Rutherglen, Glasgow
	17th	Saltcoats & Sanquhar
	24th	Scarfskerry & Selkirk

CHICKENHEAD



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